CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 8, No. 46 TORONTO, NOVEMBER 10, 1943 $2.00 Per Annum

Russ Film Rep Welcomed Here

British to Join 'Movie Invasion'

British film companies are planning to join in the presentation of motion pictures to liberated populations, a task being carried on just now by the Americans. Government-helped plans are under consideration to have the shock troops followed by propa-

(Continued on Page 3)

Six More Theatres Acquired By Rank

J. Arthur Rank, Britain's leading film and theatre figure, has just acquired the Joseph Mears circuit in the Old Country through the Odeon Corporation. Rank agreed not to extend his domestic operations without permission of the London Board of Trade. The

(Continued on Page 6)

More Vocalite Screens

Vocalite Screens have been installed by Perkins in the Canadian and YMCA theatres, Montreal, and in the Rex, Mimico.

Robs House During Crime Film Showing

While manager Harry Sherman of the Joy Theatre, Toronto, was counting a night's receipts last week a young man walked up, bought a ticket, asked if he was in time for the last show, and brought out a gun, forcing Sherman to hand over $83 in bills and silver. The thug backed away from the manager, warning him to "keep quiet or get plugged," and suddenly ran for the running board of a moving automobile which police believe was driven by an accomplice.

Inside the theatre, 300 patrons were being thrilled by the capture of gunmen in a crime picture, "Bad Men of Missouri."

To Check Canadian Market, Films With Eye to Future Distribution

"Films are part and parcel of the fight against the enemy who kills the old, the young and the helpless," Leonid Altzev, representative to Canada of the Soviet Cinema Committee told film and theatre men gathered at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, to welcome him. "The onslaught of the Nazis gave birth to great heroism and character in the Soviet Union and history would not forgive us if we stood aside while the great struggle was on. Films are helping in the extermination of the monster."

LEONID ALTZEV
Representative to Canada of the Soviet Cinema Committee, who was welcomed last week with a luncheon in Toronto.

The speaker had been welcomed by Haskell Masters of Odeon Theatres after being introduced by Herman Shawn of Cosmopoli-

(Continued on Page 2)

Glazer Coming Along

Sam Glazer, general sales manager of Columbia, who has been ill for some time, is coming along fine now, you'll be glad to hear.

Shawn to RCAF

Herman Shawn of Cosmopolitan Films has joined the RCAF. He has been active in the industry for many years, having been with Grand National prior to joining Cosmopolitan. Louis Coldoff will return to fill the gap.

Seventh Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Babineau entertained the staff of the Capitol, Chatham, New Brunswick, at their home on the seventh anniversary of the opening of the theatre. Babineau is a partner with B & L Theatres of Saint John.

Classic, Quebec To Cost $30,000

Reconstruction and improvements on the Classic Theatre, 621 rue St. Jean, Quebec City, have begun at an approximated cost of $30,000. The owner is Edmond Beaumont, 420 rue St. John.

Architects responsible are Rousseau and Begin and the contractor

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Mono Up Plenty on Last Years' Sales

At the annual meeting of the board of directors of Monogram Pictures Corporation in Hollywood last week, it was announced that sales at this time are over $645,000 in excess of last year's for the same period.

It was revealed that for the

(Continued on Page 3)

Bond Drive Details Being Cleaned Up

Tardiness in returning records of activity for the Victory Loan is holding up a compilation of the industry's effort. Some managers, exhibitors and others have been too busy working on it to make periodic reports and in a number of instances pledges haven't been returned yet. It will help things a great deal if these matters are cleared up as soon as possible.

Film and theatre people put up a great show this time. The going was admittedly harder but this was anticipated.

Quite a few film stars, among them James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, Gail Patrick and Greer Garson, did their bit to help our drive, appearing in person. Shorts by Bing Crosby and Frank Morgan were very effective.

There was a minimum of Sun-

(Continued on Page 2)

Capitol, St. John, P.Q. To Hanson Theatres

The Capitol Theatre, St. John, Quebec, has been acquired by Richelieu Theatres, of which Oscar Hanson is president, from A. E. Gregoire, who had operated the house for 15 years. The Capitol seats 928 and is a seven-day house. There are two other theatres in the city of 9,000, the Imperial and Cartier.

New operators took over on November 1st.

Flesh and Fantasy It is freely predicted that this will be the most talked about picture of the year. It has already been acclaimed as a sensation, something with a brand-new kind of appeal, offering a great all-star cast—Edward G. Robinson, Charles Boyer, Barbara Stanwyck, Robert Cummings, Robert Benchley, Thomas Mitchell, Betty Field, Charles Winninger, Anna Lee, Dame May Whitty and more. It's A UNIVERSAL PICTURE.

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Soviet Film Man Welcomed Here

(Continued from Page 1)

tan Films. "Pictures are pictures for all," Masters pointed out. "There is a kinship between film men everywhere, just as there is a kinship between all who see the same films."

"I am tremendously happy to meet you," said the Soviet representative. "The art we work for is one of the greatest and that is why the role of the cinema is so important in the present day. I feel that we who work in the field can find much happiness and contribute a great deal."

He is here, he said, to discover what films produced in Russia would suit Canadian tastes and to recommend films produced here for showing in his country. "After the United Nations have defeated the enemy, the love of people will be strengthened and the things we know today will never occur again. I am sure that, with your understanding, you will help strengthen the ties between your people and mine." The cinema, he predicted, would play an important part in post-war relations between Canada and the USSR.

Of particular interest to the listeners was Altzev's description of how the Russians received English and American films. Only the finest, some sub-titled and others dubbed, are selected and these draw large crowds everywhere. Soviet citizens have their own favorite stars and know the names and histories of pioneers in production technique, such as D. W. Griffith. Showings of historic reels are common in the USSR and a large theatre was opened recently for exhibition of English and American films, its purpose being to acquaint the Russians with life and developments in other countries.

"The desire to learn about others is essential," Altzev said, "for you must learn about others to learn about yourself."

The speaker revealed that the Nazis had forced the Soviet cinema to greater strides. Studios were moved hurriedly behind the Urals and the people of that area had benefitted by their presence. "The cinema is tremendous and like a large river, is always in motion. It obeys the laws of motion and must go on or become like a pool of mud."

Altzev, a veteran of this war, though young, has been working for 22 years. As a factory worker he had become interested in films and studied for five years under Serge Eisenstein at the University of Moscow. After graduation he became a director of children's films, a special field of production in the USSR. He felt honored that his country had chosen him to assist in making more possible a cultural understanding between the USSR and Canada.

He spoke in Russian, a translator passing on his remarks after each phase. Those present demonstrated great interest by asking questions dealing with production, distribution and exhibition at the conclusion of Altzev's address.

The luncheon was opened with a toast to the King and one to Marshal Stalin.

Pitch Woo Pretty Far In Eire Movie House

Manager of the only theatre in Clones, Eire, has forbidden hand-holding in his house unless the couple is married. Single swains will have to express their affections by remote control or telepathy, since if a boy takes a girl they must sit on opposite sides of the theatre.

Bond Drive Details Being Cleaned Up

(Continued from Page 1)

day and extra shows this time, they being officially discouraged. This did not leave managers unhappy, for these have been quite a headache in the past.

Lobby displays were livelier than ever and the use of the screen proved of great value.

Those who acted as provincial chairmen for the Canadian Motion Picture War Services were:

British Columbia—D. Griesdorf, Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd.

Alberta—K. M. Leach, Strand Theatre, Calgary.

Saskatchewan — W. Winterton, Capitol Theatre, Saskatoon, and F. Willis, Capitol Theatre, Regina.

Manitoba—J. Pearson, Corona Theatre, Winnipeg.

Ontario—N. A. Taylor, Twentieth Century Theatres, 21 Dundas Square, Toronto, and Herb Allen, Theatre Holding Corporation, 21 Dundas Square, Toronto.

Quebec—Eugene Beaulac, Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries, 323 University Tower, Montreal, Quebec.

New Brunswick — Reg. March, Twentieth Century-Fox Corporation, 12 Hazen Avenue, St. John.

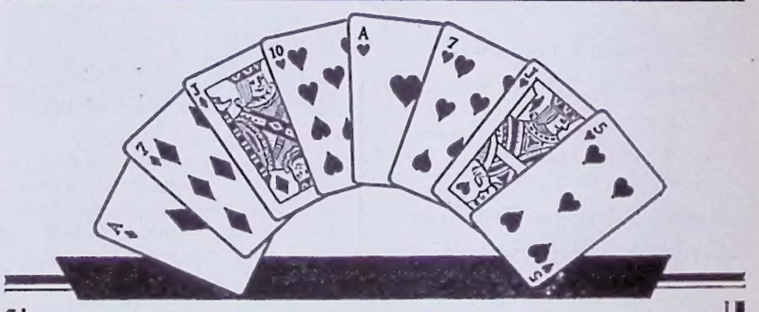
Nova Scotia — R. S. Roddick, Capitol Theatre, Halifax, and W. H. Cuzner, Strand Theatre, Sydney Mines.

J. J. Fitzgibbons, as chairman of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee, led the drive.

Film Weekly

Vol. 8, No. 46 — November 10, 1943
HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Address all communications — The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto 1, Canada. Published by Film Publications of Canada, Ltd., 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ont., Canada. Phone ADelaide 4317. Price 5 cents each or $2.00 per year. Entered as Second Class Matter



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Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 8, No. 46 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK November 10, 1943

'Claudia' Ace, 'Marines' Good

Mono Up Plenty on Last Years' Sales

(Continued from Page 1)

first time in the history of the company 50 per cent of its announced schedule for the entire season of 1943-44 will have been completed and ready for distribution before Nov. 1. With the schedule calling for 28 releases, 14 have been finished or will be completed before the end of the present week.

Election of the following officers for the ensuing year was announced: W. Ray Johnston, president; Trem Carr, executive director; Steve Broidy, vice-president in charge of sales; Herman Rifkin, vice-president; Norton V. Ritchey, vice-president in charge of foreign sales; George D. Burrows, vice-president - treasurer; Sam Wolf, secretary; E. R. Mulchrone, assistant secretary; N. Witting, assistant secretary; J. P. Friedhoff, assistant treasurer, and C. Boyle, assistant treasurer.

New board is made up as follows: Johnston, Carr, Broidy, Rifkin, Arthur Bromberg, Howard Stubins, William Hurlbut, Charles Trampe, and Alton A. Brody.

Monogram's next nine attractions for the season were made known. The group will include: "Where Are Your Children?" with Jackie Cooper, Gale Storm and Patricia Morison; "Million Dollar Kid," featuring the East Side Kids; "Hot Rhythm," a musical with Tim and Irene; Bela Lugosi and John Carradine in "Return of the Ape Man"; "The Cisco Kid Comes Back," "Follow the Leader," featuring the East Side Kids; Jack London's "Trail of the Yukon," "Johnny Doesn't Live Here Any More," and "Black Beauty."

V'graph Eastern Sales Sessions in Toronto

Wolfe Cohen, vice - president, presided at the 1943-44 Eastern Canadian sales conference of Vitagraph, Ltd., held at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on Monday, November 8th.

At the meeting were J. Plottel, A. E. Piggins, George Altman and Glenn Ireton, all from Toronto; I. Coval and G. Kiely of Montreal; and Lewis McKenzie of St. John, N.B.

"CLAUDIA"

with Dorothy McGuire, Robert Young
20th-Fox 91 Mins.

STAGE HIT MADE INTO SUPERB FILM; HEAVY GROSSES CERTAIN; WOMEN WILL GO GA-GA.

"Claudia" has what it takes—and will take plenty at the box office. Charmers like this don't come along every day. So the dating can be expected to be heavy and lively.

The film version of the Rose Franken play is a resounding success however viewed and a brilliant triumph for all associated in its making. Its appeal deep and universal, the picture easily takes its place among the finest accomplishments of the 20th-Fox studios. The transference from stage to celluloid has been engineered with unassailable taste and an earnestness not to be denied. Here indeed is a production with heart and soul, with emotional strength, tenderness and humanity far beyond one's fondest expectations. Women especially will find it one of the most memorable theatregoing experiences of the year.

"Claudia" is a love idyll that tugs powerfully at the heart strings. The story, which transpires on a Connecticut farmstead, concerns a young architect and his child wife, in the first flush of married life. The girl has yet to learn to be a woman. And there is where the husband's job lies. His attempt to break her of her slavish attachment to her mother and teach her the responsibilities of a wife and a sane, mature and realistic outlook on life inspires a variety of emotions, with a laugh here and a tear there. It takes the discovery that her mother is condemned to die of an incurable malady to speed the transition from child to woman.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the cast, Director Edmund Goulding and Morrie Ryskind, who adapted the Franken play for the screen, the characters in "Claudia" are real, breathing entities.

Dorothy McGuire bursts like a comet upon the consciousness of the film-going public in the role of Claudia, which she created on the stage. It is one of the most auspicious film debuts ever.

CAST: Dorothy McGuire, Robert Young, Ina Claire, Reginald Gardiner, Olga Baclanova, Jean Howard, Frank Tweddell, Elsa Jansen, John Royce, Frank Fenton, Ferdinand Munier, Winifred Harris, Jessie Grayson.

DIRECTION, Superb. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

'SALUTE TO THE MARINES'

with Wallace Beery
MGM 101 Mins.

BEERY APPEARS TO GOOD ADVANTAGE IN ROBUST, FAST-MOVING COLOR FILM STRONG IN COMEDY.

This film is not what one might expect from the title, which carries the promise of a well-considered, dignified tribute to the Marine Corps. The fact that the film was made with assistance from the Marine Corps and is dedicated to that branch of the service lends substance to that promise. Instead what one gets for the most part is a sentimental comedy about a big oaf of a sergeant major in the Philippines who retires after thirty years' service only to find he can't get the Marine Corps out of his system.

The above is not by the way of criticism of the entertainment value of the film. It is merely meant to set the record straight. For the truth is that, for all its routine quality, "Salute to the Marines" will draw heavily at the box office. The reasons are not hard to find. For one thing, the film has a generous quantity of simple, direct and easily-assimilated comedy. For another, it has a lusty all-out performance by Wallace Beery in the role of the old-timer. Yet, again, it has action without stint, fine Technicolor photography, a sweet romance between Beery's daughter (Marilyn Maxwell) and a Marine lieutenant (William Lundigan) and a climax packed with excitement.

Beery's inability to adjust himself to civilian life makes him very much of a trial to his wife (Fay Bainter). The fellow, with no combat service to boast of despite his long years in the Marine Corps, gets a chance to fight when the Japs attack the Philippines after his return to civilian life. He makes himself a hero by rallying the civilians against the invaders and fighting a delaying action until the arrival of reinforcements. The battle sequences are highly realistic and bring the film to a rousing end.

Beery gives better account of himself than he has in some time. The film is almost wholly his. Miss Bainter, Miss Maxwell, Lundigan, Reginald Owen, Keye Luke, Ray Collins and Donald Curtis back him up well.

CAST: Wallace Beery, Fay Bainter, Reginald Owen, Keye Luke, Ray Collins, Marilyn Maxwell, William Lundigan, Donald Curtis, Noah Beery, Sr., Dick Curtis, Russell Gleason, Rose Hobart.

Classic, Quebec To Cost $30,000

(Continued from Page 1)

is Chrysanthe Jobin, Limitee. Awarding of other contracts is still pending.

Construction of the new theatre at Montagney, Quebec, which will cost $15,000, was begun on October 18th by Irene Giguere of Ste. Marie, Beauce, for Romeo Couillard. Charles Jean of Quebec City is the architect. Seating capacity will be 525.

Policy hasn't been set yet, though Couillard expects to be open every night, with French films being shown at regular intervals.

Projectors and sound apparatus were secured from Jean Paul Piuze of Dominion Sound's Quebec City office.

Two shows weekly are being offered now at the Knights of Columbus Hall, which seats 350. Population of the town is 3,927.

British to Join 'Movie Invasion'

(Continued from Page 1)

ganda films.

"Movie Commandos" will follow invading soldiers to set up film centres for local populations.

A special organization has been formed with the help of the Ministry of Information to handle and co-ordinate the operations.

The model of North Africa, established by the USA military, is being used for the next great venture. American films arrived three days after the first assault there.

British films will share any popularity acquired by the native populations for motion pictures. It is anticipated that keen competition will develop in the world film markets when the war is over.

American motion pictures have been welcomed warmly and raised the spirits of the African and Italian populations.

$5,000 in Repairs For St. Joseph D'Alma, PQ

The Alma Theatre, St. Joseph D'Alma, Quebec, operated by the Alma Theatre Company, has undertaken general repairs to the extent of $5,000. House seats 300.

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Wouldn't You Just Know

O. J. Silverthorne, popular head of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau, went down to the Red Cross blood bank the other day and caused quite a furore.

They stuck a needle in the finger of one hand. No blood. They stuck a needle in the finger of the other hand. No blood. They stuck a needle in one arm up to the usual penetration. Still no blood.

Puzzled, the doctor stuck a needle in the remaining arm—while holding his breath. This time he struck oil—or rather blood. And took plenty.

What was the matter? Nothing. Our censor has thicker skin than the average man, that's all.

It was probably like onion skin before he became associated with film men.

* * *

Stars Fell on Toronto

The Victory Loan brought Pat O'Brien, Gail Patrick, Jimmy Cagney and other stars to Toronto. Some of them dropped around the local offices, causing some excitement On the Square. . . The most popular was Jimmy Cagney, who went on a broadcast from here with a packed and painful tooth. Cagney also wrote a statement for the Modern Digest, a Canadian publication, as "an American citizen, an actor and a trade unionist." Wrote Cagney: "There are no citizens in conquered Europe. Just as there are no citizens, there are no actors. Artists cannot exist in a society dedicated to murder, and bloodshed and conquest. . . The achievements of each member of the United Nations are the common property of all. That is why we Americans are as proud of Canada's magnificent fighting and production record as we are of our own". . . Modern Digest, incidentally, got a very interesting article out of the Motion Picture Herald's "What This Picture Did For Me" department, giving the fans a look at the other side of the advertising. . . The first available boxoffice report at the opening of the Edison Kinetoscope peep-show arcade in New York in 1894 showed receipts amounting to $5.38.

* * *

The Same the Whole World Over

At the luncheon to welcome Leonid Altzev, representative of the Soviet Cinema Committee, many questions were asked about the film industry there. Though Altzev doesn't speak English, he's a likeable cuss with an eagerness to make friends. The boys liked to see him in action.

One asked Altzev if, since all films are made by the government, critics suggested to the public that they avoid those panned. His answer got a laugh.

"Sure," he said, "but the people go anyway."

A question about advertising drew the information that two lines in the press were enough to draw capacity audiences.

"Ask him," Herb Allen said to the interpreter, "how we can get away with that here?"

It was a friendly gathering that might easily have been a preview of the spirit between countries in the near future.

Six More Theatres Acquired By Rank

(Continued from Page 1)

price is reported to have been $3,000,000.

It has been estimated that Rank, who was a stranger to the film business until seven years ago, now controls over 1,000 of Britain's 4,500 theatres, as well as 75 per cent of the "A" playing time in that country. He is also the leading figure in production.

Rank's every move takes on a great significance in the film world. American companies with large circuits in Britain are worried about his ever-increasing activity. His announced intention of competing with American film companies on a large scale for foreign markets after the war is causing them plenty of worry. Leading USA executives are heading for conferences with him.

The British leader claims that British films, which do not maintain their own distribution agencies in the USA, are not getting a fair share of booking. He wants more playing time or will take measures to get it through his own setup.

It is Rank's contention that British playing time is not enough to make production worth while and that the continuation of that production depends on a wider market. He feels that he can win a prominent place for British films within four years after the war.

Rank was reported bidding for a Canadian and a South African chain.

Television Policy Studied by RKO

RKO has become the first studio to announce the establishment of a special department to work out a television and radio policy. Ralph B. Austrian has been appointed by N. Peter Rathvon, president, to examine television and radio and submit recommendations for their best use to boost the company's product.

Austrian, recently a member of the War Production Board's Planning Committee in Washington, was for seven years assistant vice-president of RCA.

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in the
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of the
CANADIAN
Film Weekly

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THE Paramount Picture

EXTRA
PLAYING TIME IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY WITH PARAMOUNT PRODUCT!

VOL. 2 (ADVT.) The Lowdown on the Production and Distribution of the Best Shows in Town! NO. 5

'True to Life' Proved Aisle-Roller

Dorothy Lamour as she appears in one of the colorful sequences in Paramount's "Ridin' High," with Dick Powell, Victor Moore, Gil Lamb, Cass Daley and Milt Britton and his Band.

Hutton, Sullivan in 'Incendiary Blonde'

Barry Sullivan, stalwart young leading man from the New York stage, has won the coveted co-starring assignment with Betty Hutton for "Incendiary Blonde." He currently is playing the romantic lead opposite Dorothy Lamour in "Rainbow Island" and also played the highly important role of the psychiatrist in Paramount's "Lady in the Dark."

In "Incendiary Blonde" Sullivan will portray a rough-and-ready gambler who loved Texas Guinan through the years of her brilliant rise from cowgirl star of the silent screen to Queen of Broadway in its gayest period.

Barry Fitzgerald and Mary Phillips will play the father and mother of la Guinan.

On Lists of Twelve Funniest Films of All Time

If, within a short time, you find people on buses and street corners suddenly breaking into uncontrollable guffaws, don't start worrying about the mental state of the Dominion. These giddy citizens will merely be recalling their favorite laughs in "True to Life."

"True to Life" is more than a great Paramount comedy. It is a hilarity wave that will inundate the Dominion. Already it has engulfed numerous previewers who have placed it on their lists of the ten funniest films of all time.

This story of a family that goes on the air without knowing it is wacky but wise, ludicrous but shrewd. Audiences will laugh with father — Victor Moore — who can invent anything except a way to keep his daughter home nights. Patrons will start the proverbial aisle-rolling somewhere between his it's-all-done-with-buttons kitchen and his one-man air raid alarm.

Daughter Mary Martin is worth $1,000 a week—as story material for two radio serial writers. To get material without Mary's knowing it, writer Dick Powell disguises himself as an indigent boarder. To get Mary without Dick's knowing it, Franchot Tone disguises himself—very slightly—as a "wolf."

For an accomplishment so joyous and right, we salute Director George Marshall and Producer Paul Jones. They have given exhibitors a motion picture that is "True to Life"—and twice as funny. If you want the funniest picture of the year, Mr. Exhibitor, see the Paramount branch manager in your territory as soon as possible and arrange for your booking of "True to Life."

Paramount Prepares Two New Features

Production of "A Medal for Benny," Paramount's story of a war hero's return to his home town, is being held up until Dorothy Lamour finishes work on "Rainbow Island." B. G. De Sylva is trying to get Gregory La Cava to handle the directorial assignment.

"Bring on the Girls," a Navy musical formerly titled "True to the Navy," will go before the cameras in early December.

'Caribbean Romance' Comes Next

The industry's new sensation, Olga San Juan, is soon coming to Canada! Olga makes her Canadian debut in the second of the Paramount Musical Parade pictures, "Caribbean Romance."

Photographed in lavish Technicolor, "Caribbean Romance" is startlingly beautiful. Sixteen-year-old Olga San Juan adds her own inimitable color to an already more than colorful short subject.

Mr. Exhibitor, check today with your nearest Paramount branch manager for a screening of "Caribbean Romance."

Rhapsody of Raves For 'Hostages'

In the big republic to the south of us, Paramount's "Hostages" continues to make the critics sit up and take notice. Consensus of press opinion seems to be that "Hostages" is "a film you will not forget quickly . . . has all the elements of a real thriller . . . moves at a fast pace . . . it has a force and impact that cannot be denied . . . and it emerges in the end as one of the truly fine pictures of the day."

Seen for the first time in Canada will be Katinou Paxinou, "First Lady of the Greek Theatre." Also making a great hit with the critics is Arturo de Cordova. Others in the cast include William Bendix, who turns in a marvelous performance as Janoshik; Luise Rainer, twice an Academy Award winner; Paul Lukas, Oscar Homolka, Roland Varno and a host of others.

The Gestapo tries to drive a wedge between the love of Luise Rainer and Arturo de Cordova in Paramount's exciting drama, "Hostages." Other leading actors include Katinou Paxinou, William Bendix, Paul Lukas, Oscar Homolka and Roland Varko.

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